

Notes from the “jump starting a WFU program” Breakout session

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Fire Use Workshop

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Breakout Session Attendees:

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Breakout Notes

The group first recognized two different scenarios and identified recommendations for “jump starting a WFU program for both:

Scenario 1: Units with LMPs that don’t address Fire Use

Scenario 2: Units with Fire Use addressed in LMP-Ready to Implement

Recommendations for Units where Fire Use is not yet addressed in LMP

At the Unit level.....

- Involve Fire Staff (fire ecologists, fire behavior specialists, operations, fuels planners) in the LMP revision and amendment process.
- Get started on analysis and amendment process if possible...don’t wait years for revision!
- Use revision and amendment processes to enact Appropriate Management Response (AMR).
- Don’t be too restrictive when developing fire management direction...think strategic and long-term.
- Involve the public from the start (meetings, staff rides etc).
- Take advantage of “teachable moments” with external and internal audiences
- Communicate with communities at risk about AMR when developing CWPPs that have available WFU acres in CWPP planning area.

At the National Level.....

- Provide clear interpretation of NEPA requirements and LMP planning fire management direction guidance, agency specific as well as interagency (i.e. with new FS planning rules are old LMPs adequate?).
- Compile “lessons learned” for use at field level
- Consider organizing a “mentoring” program for units interested in starting up WFU

Interagency Fuels Group recommendations.....

****Krista Gollnick-Waid-BLM rep, Mike Granger-FWS rep, Kelly Esterbrook-FS volunteered to present all recommendations to Interagency Fuels Working Group in mid-March.***

- Task “Lessons Learned Center” to identify personnel who are willing to share WFU planning information with others new to WFU program. Post good examples of LMP amendments/revisions and provide contact names of fire planners who could assist.

Recommendations for Units READY TO IMPLEMENT

At the unit level.....

- Get Line Officers on board and engaged
- Determine the personnel, training and qualification needs of your unit
- Conduct Line Officer WFIP refresher training annually in conjunction with WFSA training.
- Conduct pre-season exercise (i.e. sandtable) for resource specialists, Line Officers, FMOs, module leaders, and dispatch.
- Develop and review annually WFU implementation procedures with field going personnel and dispatch.
- Make maps and WFU pocket guides with FMP objectives available for field personnel, module leaders, fire crews, etc.
- Ensure GIS data (vegetation, fuels, weather, resources, structure) is ready for WFIP using recommendations in Appendix B of the Wildland Fire Implementation Guide (note: External hard drives work well.
- Prepare in-briefing package so you are prepared when you need a FUMT.
- Frontload Stage III. of the WFIP with input from Line Officers and resource/fire staff.
- Order a FUMT or FUM and use their expertise for training purposes.
- Post your available WFU personnel, trainees, and equipment on a website (see Mike Frary's example).
- Develop a communication plan to inform internal and external audiences about fire management goals.

Interagency Fuels Group recommendations.....

- Task training working team to include fire use examples in training courses (from S-190 to S-520).
- Consider developing a national IDIQ contract to make available specialists that can help plan and implement WFU (i.e. LTAN, GIS, etc).
- Work with Lesson's Learned Center to make available WFIPs, Communication Plans, and Long-Term Assessments from past WFU events managed by FUMTs.
- Task a sub-group (Fire Use Task Group?) to develop a checklist outlining steps to starting a WFU program.
- Charter an Interagency Fire Use Task sub-group to develop an action plan to implement fire use recommendations, including prioritizing all recommendations from this workshop and recommendations from the workshop held in 2004.

